

felt, 33 per cent, as compared with the same months of 1889. The results attained by a reorganization and consolidation of the divisions having charge of the hospital and service records of the volunteer soldiers, were very remarkable. This change was effected in July, 1889, and at that time there were 40,654 cases awaiting attention, more than half of these being calls from the pension office for information necessary to the adjudication of pension claims. On the 30th day of June last, though over 300,000 new calls had come in, there was not a single case that had not been examined and answered.

I concur in the recommendation of the secretary that an adequate and regular appropriation be continued for coast defense works and ordnance. Plans have been practically agreed upon and there can be no good reason for delaying the execution of the same. The defenseless state of our great harbors furnishes an urgent reason for war expenditure. The encouragement that has been extended to the militia of the states, generally and most appropriately designated "the National Guard," should be continued and enlarged. These military organizations consist of a large number of the best of the United States, while about five-sixths of the annual cost of their maintenance is defrayed by the states.

JUDICIARY.
The report of the attorney-general is, under the law, submitted directly to congress, but as the department of justice is one of the executive departments, it is appropriate that the work done in the department be reported to the senate. A vigorous and in the main, an effective effort has been made to bring to trial and punishment all violators of the laws, but at the same time care has been taken that frivolous and technical offenses should not be used to swell the fees of officers or harass well disposed citizens. Especial attention is called to the facts connected with the prosecution of violators of the election laws and of officers against United States officers. The number of convictions secured, very many of them upon pleas of guilty, will, it is hoped, have a salutary restraining influence. There have been several cases where postmasters appointed by me have been convicted in the discharge of their official duties, and to persecutions and personal violence of the most extreme character. Some of these cases have been dealt with through the department of justice, and in some cases the postoffices have been closed or suspended for a period. The postmaster-general to pursue this course in all cases where other efforts have failed to secure for any postmaster not himself in fault an opportunity peacefully to exercise the duties of his office, but such action will not supplant the efforts of the department of justice to bring particular offenders to punishment. The recent judicial decision of fraudulent certificates of naturalization upon bills in equity filed by the attorney-general in the circuit court of the United States is a new application of a familiar equity jurisdiction. Nearly 100 such decrees have been taken during the year, the evidence disclosing that a very large number of fraudulent certificates of naturalization have been issued. In this connection I beg to renew my recommendation that the law to be amended as to require a more full and searching inquiry into all the facts necessary to naturalization before any certificate is granted. It certainly is not too much to require that application for an extension of time be heard with much care, and be recorded with as much formality as are given to cases involving the most property right.

At the last session I returned without my approval a bill entitled "an act to prohibit bookmaking and pool-selling in the District of Columbia," and stated my objection to be that it did not prohibit bookmaking and pool-selling in the District of Columbia. Efforts will be made under existing laws to suppress this evil. It is not certain that they will be found adequate.

POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT.
The report of the postmaster-general shows the most gratifying progress in the important work committed to him. The country has not been so long without a large economy in expenditures and an increase of \$1,075,000 in receipts have been realized. The deficiency this year is \$5,780,000, as against \$7,250,183 last year, notwithstanding the great enlargement of the service. Mail routes have been extended and quickened, and a greater economy and dispatch in distribution and delivery have been attained. The report will be found to be full of interest and suggestions, not only to congress, but to those thoughtful citizens who may be interested and know what business methods can do for that department of public administration which most nearly touches all our people.

LOTTERY LAW.
The passage of the act to amend certain sections of the revised statutes relating to lotteries, approved September 19, 1890, has been received with great and deserved popular favor. The post-office department and the department of justice at once entered upon the enforcement of the law with sympathetic vigor, and already the public has been largely freed from the fraudulent and demoralizing appeals and literature emanating from the lottery companies.

NAVY.
The construction and equipment of the new ships for the navy have made very satisfactory progress. Since March 4, 1890, more new vessels have been put in commission, during this year, four more, including one monitor, will be added. The construction of the other vessels authorized is being pushed both in the government and private yards with energy and watched with the most scrupulous care. The experiments conducted during the year to test the relative power of armor plates have been very valuable and attracted great attention in Europe. The only part of the treaty upon the new ships that is threatened by unusual delay is the armor plating, and every effort is being made to reduce that to the minimum. It is a source of congratulation that the anticipated influence of these modern vessels upon the spirit of the corps of the officers and men has been fully realized. Confidence and pride in the ship among the crew are equivalent to a secondary battery. Your favorable consideration is invited to the recommendations of the secretary.

THE INTERIOR.
The report of the secretary of the interior exhibits with great fullness and clearness the vast work of that great department and the satisfactory results attained. The suggestions made by him are earnestly commended to the consideration of congress, though they cannot all be given particular mention here. The several acts of congress looking to the reduction of the large Indian reservations, to the more rapid settlement of the land upon which the Indians are, and the restoration to the public of lands in excess of their needs, have been largely carried into effect, so far as the work was confined to the executive. Agreements have been concluded since March 4, 1889, involving the cessation to

the United States of about 14,728,000 acres of land. The contracts have, as required by law, been submitted to congress for ratification and for the appropriation necessary to carry them into effect. Those with the Sisseton and Wahpeton, Sac and Fox, Iowa, Potawatamies, and Absentee Shawnees and Comanche tribes, have not received the sanction of congress. Attention is also called to the fact that the appropriations made in the case of the Sioux Indians have not covered all the stipulated payments. This should be promptly corrected. If an agreement is confirmed, all of its terms should be complied with without delay, and appropriations should be made.

PATENTING OF LANDS.
The policy outlined in my last annual message in relation to the patenting of lands to settlers upon the public domain, which has been carried out in the administration of the land office. No general suspicion nor imputation of fraud has been allowed to delay the hearing and adjudication of individual cases upon their merits. The purpose has been to perfect the title of honest settlers with such promptness that the title of the entry might not be swallowed up by the expenses and extensions to which delay subjected the claimant.

The average monthly issue of agricultural patents has been increased about 6000. The disability pension act which was approved on the 27th of June last has been put into operation as rapidly as was practicable. The increased clerical force as provided was selected and assigned to work and a considerable part of the force engaged in examinations in the field was recalled and added to the working force of the office. The examination and adjudication of claims have been more rapid than ever before. There is no reason to believe that the law is being enforced, while there is much hardship and injustice to the soldier. The anticipated expenditure, while very large, will not, it is believed, be in excess of the estimates made before the enactment of the law. This liberal enlargement of the general law should suggest a more careful scrutiny of claims for special relief, both as to the cases where relief is granted and as to the amount allowed.

MORMONISM.
The increasing numbers and influence of non-Mormon population in Utah are observed with satisfaction. The recent letter of Wilford Woodruff, president of the Mormon church, in which he advised his people to refrain from contracting marriages for polygamy, has attracted wide attention and it is hoped that its influence will be highly beneficial in restraining infractions of the law of the United States. But the doctrine or belief of the church that polygamous marriages are rightful, supported by divine revelation, remains unchanged. President Woodruff does not renounce the doctrine, but refrains from teaching it and advises against the practice of it because the law is against it. Now it is quite true the law should not attempt to deal with the faith or belief of any sect, but Mormonism is quite another thing and the only safety is to deal with the facts. During the month of October, 1890, the census of Utah as taken by the census bureau, showed that there were 300 less failures reported in October, 1889, than in the same month of the preceding year, with liabilities diminished by about \$5,000,000. The value of our exports of domestic merchandise during the last year was over \$115,000,000 greater than the preceding year, and was only exceeded by our history. About \$100,000,000 of this excess was in agricultural products.

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CENSUS.
The enumeration of the people of the United States under the provisions of act of March 1, 1890, has been completed, and the result will be at once officially communicated to congress. The completion of this decennial enumeration devolves upon the census bureau the duty of a new apportionment of representatives among the several states according to their respective numbers.

At the last session I had occasion to return with my objections several bills making provisions for the erection of public buildings for the reason that the expenditures contemplated were, in my opinion, greatly in excess of any public need. No class of legislation is more liable to abuse or to degenerate into an unseemly scramble about the public treasury than this. There should be exercised in this matter a wise economy based upon some responsible and impartial examination, and the report as to each case under a general law.

CONCURRENCE IN REVENUE.
The report of the secretary of agriculture deserves special attention, in view of the fact that the year has been marked in a very unusual degree by agitation and organization among the farmers looking to an increase in the profits of their business. It will be found that the efforts of the department have been ineffectually and zealously directed to the promotion of the interests entrusted to its care. A very substantial improvement in the market prices of the leading farm products during the year is noticed. The price of wheat advanced from 81 cents in October, 1889, to \$1.00 1/2 in October, 1890; corn from 31 cents to 50 1/2 cents; sorghum from 17 cents to 25 cents; and barley from 63 cents to 75 cents. It will be shown a substantial but not so large an increase. The export of live animals and fowls shows a very large increase. The total value of such exports for the year ending June 30, 1890, was \$33,000,000, and the increase over the preceding year was over \$15,000,000. Nearly 2,000,000 live animals and over 45,000 more hogs were exported than the preceding year. The export trade in beef and pork products and in greasy products was very largely increased by the increase in the article of butter being from 15,504,978 pounds to 29,748,042 pounds, and the total increase in the value of milk and dairy products exported directly to the farmer, as is believed, will be yet further and very largely increased when the system of inspection and sanitary supervision now provided by law is brought fully into operation. The efforts of the secretary to establish the healthfulness of our meats against the disparaging imputations that have been put upon them abroad have resulted in substantial progress. Veterinary surgeons sent out by the department are now allowed to participate in the inspection of the live cattle from this country landed on the English docks, and during the several months they have been on duty no case of contagious pleuro-pneumonia has been reported. The domestic inspection of live animals and pork products provided for by the act of August 30, 1890, will afford as perfect a guaranty for the wholesomeness of our meats offered for foreign consumption as is anywhere given to any food product, and its non-acceptance will quite clearly reveal the real motive of any continued restriction of their use, and that having been made clear the duty of the executive will be very plain.

THE INFORMATION GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY OF THE PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS OF THE BEST-SUGAR INDUSTRY IS FULL OF INTEREST. IT HAS ALREADY PASSED THE EXPERIMENTAL STAGE, AND IS A COMMERCIAL SUCCESS. THE AREA OVER WHICH THE SUGAR-BEET CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY CULTIVATED IS VERY LARGE, AND ANOTHER YEAR'S TRIAL VALUE IS OFFERED TO THE CHOICE OF THE FARMER.

The secretary of the treasury concurs in the recommendation of the secretary of agriculture that the official supervision provided by the tariff law for sugar of domestic productions had to be transferred to the department of agriculture. The law relating to civil service, so far as it can learn, being executed by those having the power of appointment in the classified service with fidelity and impartiality and the service has been increasingly satisfactory. The report of the commission shows a large amount of good work done during the year with very limited appropriation.

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The Beneficial Effects of the New Bill on Commerce Not Yet Felt.
I congratulate congress and the country upon the passage at the first session of the Fifty-first congress of an unusual number of laws of very high importance, and that the results of this legislation will be quickening and an enlargement of our manufacturing industries larger, and better markets for our breadstuffs and provisions, both at home and abroad, more constant employment and better wages for working people and an increased supply of a safe currency for the transaction of business. I do not doubt that some of these measures were enacted at a late period that the beneficial effects upon commerce, which were in the contemplation of congress, have as yet but partially manifested themselves. The general trade and industrial conditions throughout the country during the year have been marked improvement. For many years, prior to 1888, the merchandise balances of foreign trade had been largely in our favor, but during that year, and the year following, they turned against us. It is very gratifying to know that the last fiscal year again shows a balance in our favor of over \$68,000,000. The bank clearings, which furnish a good test of the volume of business transacted for the first ten months of the year 1890, show, as compared with the same months of 1889, an increase for the whole country of about 8.4 per cent., while the increase outside of the city of New York was over 13 per cent. During the month of October, the clearings of the whole country showed an increase of 3.1 per cent. over October, 1889, while outside of New York the increase was 11.5 per cent. These figures show that the increase in

the volume of business was very general throughout the country. That this larger business was being conducted upon a safe and profitable basis is shown by the fact that there were 300 less failures reported in October, 1889, than in the same month of the preceding year, with liabilities diminished by about \$5,000,000. The value of our exports of domestic merchandise during the last year was over \$115,000,000 greater than the preceding year, and was only exceeded by our history. About \$100,000,000 of this excess was in agricultural products.

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A Strange Indeed that
A PLAIN TALKING
make everything so bright, but
"A needle clothes others, and is itself naked." Try it in your next house-cleaning.